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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT,
'POISONOUS DRYWALL,' SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COOPERATION

Editorial Quotes

11. U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

"It is hard for the U.S. Congress to change its view on China"

The official Xinhua News Agency international news publication International Herald Leader (Guoji Xianqu Daobao) (10/19)(pg 4): "On October 16, the Congressional-Executive Commission on China issued a 'Human Rights Report on China.' The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs believes that the report is full of ignorance and prejudice. The Commission should stop issuing reports that distort the facts and interfere in China's internal affairs. Experts note the irony that the report's data are not from the Chinese government or the UN, but rather come from a variety of channels that are not authoritative. Zhang Liping, Director of the Office of U.S. Studies at the China Academy of Social Sciences, said that the reason that the Commission issues such a report every year is to try to maintain its influence over China and to prevent the White House from gaining a monopoly on diplomatic initiatives with China. However, the report's influence is limited. Since Obama currently needs cooperation from China, he will not easily swing the human rights stick at China like his predecessors did."

12. 'POISONOUS DRYWALL'

"The U.S. wants compensation from China for 'poisonous walls'"

The official Communist Party international news publication Global Times (Huanqiu Shibao)(10/19)(pg 11): "Zhou Shijian at the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) said that the U.S. needs to issue an authoritative report [on the toxic drywall issue] that is recognized by both the U.S. and China. Chinese products exported to the U.S. have to go through three checks: Chinese quality control, the Chinese Exports Inspection Department, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. If the walls are really poisonous, then both the U.S. and China are responsible. The U.S. should not blame China. According to an American consulting company, the toxic drywall issue will cause \$1.5 billion-\$2.5 billion in economic losses. Zhou argued that any compensation should be based on an authoritative report. However, due to the complexity of the technology involved and insufficient resources, it is still unclear when such a drywall report can be issued."

13. SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COOPERATION

"Central and South Asia are increasing interactions"

The official Communist Party People's Daily (Renmin Ribao) (10/19)(pg 3): "There are three reasons that the level of interaction between Central and South Asia is increasing. First, the situation in Afghanistan is a common concern for both regions. Both Central Asia and South Asia are willing to create a better

environment for peace and stability in Afghanistan. Second, both regions can further their geopolitical interests through cooperation. India and Pakistan both want to expand their influence in the region and are also eager for [access to] the region's plentiful oil and mineral resources. Through South Asia, Central Asia can open a door to the outside world and decrease its dependence on Russia. Third, the U.S. is also working behind the scenes, pushing for collaboration between the two regions in order to advance its own interests. The new U.S. strategy on Afghanistan and Pakistan involves seeking a 'radical resolution' to the Afghanistan issue. The U.S. is happy to see 'resource cooperation' between India and Pakistan and Central Asia. Therefore, it is undeniable that cooperation between the two regions will have far-reaching influence on European and Asian geopolitics."

HUNTSMAN